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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3601

May 21, 2014

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Some of my constituents in the First District of Oklahoma have expressed concerns to me regarding the recent posting on the Federal Business Opportunities website for the purchase of firearms by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The mission of the USDA is "to provide leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues based on sound public policy, the best available science, and efficient management." The fear of my constituents is that the USDA is expanding outside of its intended mission.

In understanding the issue further, I am asking to be provided with more information to clarify the USDA's need for the posted firearms. In addition to a formal response, I would like a member of your staff to brief me on the subject of firearms/ammo purchases by USDA. My staff contacts are Mark Piland (mark.piland@mail.house.gov) and Megan Wenrich (megan.wenrich@mail.house.gov). Thank you for your attention to this request. I look forward to hearing back from you soon on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Jim Bridenstine
Member of Congress

JB/MP